

Serial No.: 10/723,031
Amdt. dated 21 May 2007
Reply to Office Action of 21 February 2007

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing will replace all previous listings and versions of the claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1.-9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Presented) A process for performing dental surgery with an instrument, wherein the instrument includes:

(a) a hollow shank having, a rearward fitting, and a forward head including a contact region and a window in proximity thereto;

(b) said contact region being adapted for cutting, scraping, and/or grinding dental tissue;

(c) a source of laser energy, wherein the source is configured and arranged to produce laser energy for photodamage or photothermal effect to destroy residual bacteria;

(d) said window being transmissive with respect to said laser energy; and

(e) a fiber optic bundle extending from said source of laser energy, through said fitting and said shank for communication with said window;

said dental process comprising applying said instrument to subject a surgical site simultaneously to

(1) mechanical cutting, scraping and/or grinding, and to

(2) said laser energy for photodamage or photothermal effect, to remove diseased tissue and to destroy residual bacteria; wherein said laser energy is generated by at least one diode laser configured and arranged to produce an output including 870nm or 930 nm or both.

11. (Canceled)

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12. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 10, further comprising trimming and cauterizing to remove diseased tissue and to destroy residual bacteria.